

IN RE:

DUNCAN J. MCNEIL,

Petitioner.

On Petition for Writ of Mandamus to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama

BEFORE: ANDERSON and BIRCH, Circuit Judges

## BY THE COURT:

Duncan J. McNeil, a Washington state prisoner appearing <u>prose</u>, has filed a motion for relief from "three strikes" designation, a motion for leave to proceed <u>in forma pauperis</u> (IFP), and a petition for a writ of mandamus. McNeil argues that he should be allowed to proceed without payment of fees, and that the "three strikes" provision of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g) does not apply to him, because (1) the district court already granted him IFP status on December 6, 2005, and this order is entitled to full faith and credit; (2) the "three strikes" determination was not properly before the district court because it was not raised by the opposing party and because he was not given the

opportunity to be heard; and (3) he actually has no prior strikes. McNeil also alleges that he is under imminent danger of serious physical injury but fails to specify how.

Under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g), a prisoner who has "on 3 or more prior occasions, while incarcerated or detained in any facility, brought an action or appeal in a court of the United States that was dismissed on the grounds that it is frivolous, malicious, or fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, unless the prisoner is under imminent danger of serious physical injury," may not proceed without payment of fees.

We already have declared McNeil to be a "three-striker" for all future litigation, and we have confirmed that designation on several occasions. See McNeil v. United States, No. 05-15618; McNeil v. United States, No. 05-16148; McNeil v. United States, 05-16696; In re McNeil, No. 06-10247. We conclude that McNeil has failed to show that he is entitled to relief from this designation. First, McNeil's allegation that the district court granted him IFP status on December 6, 2005, is contradicted by the record, which demonstrates that the court required McNeil to pay the filing fee under the partial payment plan of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b). Second, McNeil's claim that the "three strikes" determination was not properly before the court because it was not raised by the opposing party is contrary to the plain language of § 1915(g), which does not require that the issue be raised by an opposing party. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). Moreover, like any other determination related to the payment of fees, the determination of whether someone has "three strikes" has nothing to do with the opposing party. Finally, McNeil's claim that he has no strikes is erroneous. A review of McNeil's previous filings in the Eastern District of Washington indicates that at least three of McNeil's civil rights complaints filed in that district were dismissed as frivolous: (1) McNeil v. Whaley, Civil Action No. 2:04-cv-00371-AAM; (2) McNeil v. Gregoire, Civil Action No. 2:04-cv-00372-AAM; (3) McNeil v. Miller, Civil Action No. 2:04-cv-00378-AAM. Accordingly, because McNeil has failed to demonstrate that the "three strikes" provision of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g) is inapplicable to him, his motion for relief from "three strikes" designation is **DENIED**.

Furthermore, because McNeil has "three strikes" and has not alleged sufficiently that he qualifies under the imminent-danger exception to § 1915(g), the Court will dismiss his mandamus petition without further notice unless he pays the full filing fee within 14 days of the date of this order. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g).